

## TESTIMONY

Senator LeBeau,.....

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I met Senator LeBeau during the summer of 1997. As I was walking toward the Geissler's Supermarket in So. Windsor, I noticed him standing behind a small table, greeting people going into the market. I went up to him, introduced myself and told him that I was a member of the Ladies of the French Social Circle of East Hartford and wanted to know if he would like to talk at one of our meetings. Of course, he was interested.

So, at our October meeting of that year, he spoke to us about his background, talked about his father who had worked so hard all his life to support his family which is typical of French Canadians.

In 1955, our family moved from St-Georges de Beauce, Quebec to Hartford. Our parents bought a rooming house on Wadsworth St. but our father soon realized that he needed to look for a job. So, he worked on construction for a few months and then got a job at Whitney Chain in Hartford where he worked for 23 years.

Our mother operated the rooming house. Later on, she worked at factories as well as G. Fox and Sage-Allen in Hartford.

We invited Senator LeBeau again at our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Banquet held at Adams Mill in Manchester to be our Guest of Honor. He joined us and talked about introducing a Bill to establish June 24<sup>th</sup> of each year as French Canadian American Day in the State of Connecticut to honor our heritage.

I am pleased to support Bill 383: An Act Establishing French Canadian American Day.

Odette Drouin Manning